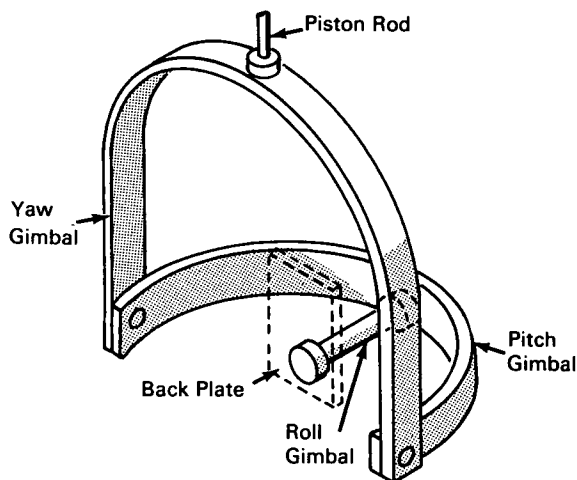
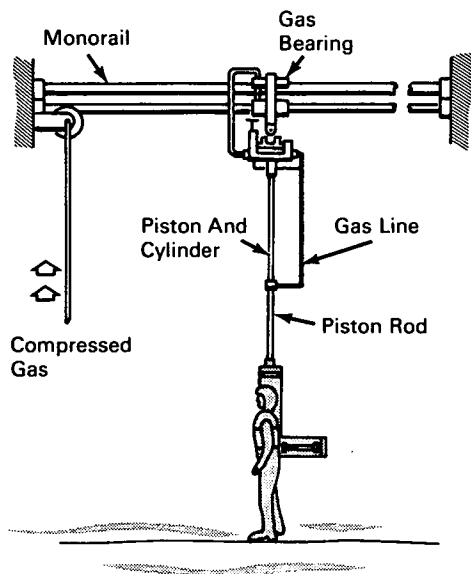


NASA TECH BRIEF



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Simulator Effects Partial Gravity Conditions



The problem:

To partially support the weight of patients in rehabilitation exercises. Patients convalescing following injuries or certain types of surgery cannot comfortably support their full weight while regaining their ability to walk about.

The solution:

An apparatus that is adjustable to partially support a patient to the extent desired. It can simulate partial gravity to zero gravity.

How it's done:

A gimballed support is suspended from a pneumatically driven piston and cylinder arrangement that rides on a monorail by means of a gas bearing. Gas under

pressure is valved by an adjustable servo system to exert an upward force on the piston at a constant, preselected rate. The gimbal support is comprised of yaw and pitch gimbals, consisting of half circle members pivotally joined at their diameter ends, and a roll gimbal in the form of an axially rotatable rigid rod secured at one end to a back plate strapped to the patient's body, and at its other end is journaled to the center of the arc defined by the pitch gimbal. The back plate is part of a harness assembly that supports the patient while leaving his arms and legs free.

Notes:

1. This device should be an ideal tool for physical therapy in rehabilitation centers.

(continued overleaf)

2. A related innovation is described in NASA Tech Brief B64-10146, June 1964. Inquiries may also be directed to:

Technology Utilization Officer
Manned Spacecraft Center
Houston, Texas 77058
Reference: B66-10339

Patent status:

This invention is owned by NASA, and a patent application has been filed. Royalty-free, nonexclusive licenses for its commercial use will be granted by NASA. Inquiries concerning license rights should be made to NASA, Code GP, Washington, D.C. 20546.

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